



LLANGATTOCK GREEN VALLEYS NEWSLETTER

Issue 60 - May 2015

ENERGY GENERATION PROJECTS:

Significant progress has been made this month with our first hydro scheme, Cwm Gu, which is nearing completion. Some fine, dry weather has meant that trenching work for the penstock pipe in the upper section is complete and the turbine has been installed. The output electricity pole with transformer is now in position and we're expecting the electrics and circuit board to be installed soon. The electricity meter should also be installed by Ecotricity within the next 2 weeks. Our constructors TGV Hydro haven't yet confirmed a commissioning date but the scheme should be ready for final G59/3 testing within a few weeks.

Steve Sharp took some people from some of LGV's funding organisations around the Cwm Gu site this month; the large excavator was busy digging trenches for the penstock and fortunately the sun shone all day. After commissioning, we are looking into similar site visits for some local school children and also for subscribers to our co-operatives.



We are also exploring a number of big PV roof mounted schemes with the potential of another co-op being launched. We hope to include local schools and agricultural barns in the scheme, as well as large commercial buildings, village halls, chapels and churches.

Anybody with a building with a large roof who would like to explore either doing it at the same time for themselves, and so reducing their costs through the benefits of bulk buying, or leasing the roof to the co-operative, with a deal on cheap electricity, please get in contact with me: andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk. Many thanks, Andrew.

For further information, please contact **Phil** (gibsons@uwclub.net).

PLEASE ASK US!

If anybody would like to look at our finances or discuss our schemes, please contact us and we will be very happy to help. We are proud to be operating a transparent and successful Community Interest Company.

LGV VOLUNTEERS NEEDED PLEASE! CAN YOU HELP?

We are looking for a number of people who would like to get involved at Director and non-Director level. Please get in touch with Andrew Fryer if you would like to explore the ways in which you can help: andrew@wernwatkin.fsnet.co.uk

ALLOTMENTS (LACAS):

Growing and eating your own fruit and veg. is healthy, sociable, exciting and satisfying. We currently have a few vacancies in the allotment field.

See our page on Facebook. <https://www.facebook.com/llangattockallotments?fref=ts>

LLANGATTOCK COMMUNITY WOODLANDS (LCW):

SUNDAY 10 MAY: 2 – 4pm

LCW will be planting trees and sowing wild flower seeds in the wood alongside the Monmouthshire and Brecon Canal in Llangattock. The 400 wet woodland tree whips sent from the Woodland Trust are happily sitting in a little tree nursery we dug for them.



*Tree Nursery -
Whipper
Snappers 400
tree whips for
wet woodland
Willow, Alder,
Birch and
Downy Birch*

With the addition of wild flower seeds which include a nectar and pollen mix and the benefits to local pollinators this will provide, it will be fantastic. Pollinators include species such as honeybees, bumble bees, hoverflies, butterflies, moths and solitary bees.



This is part of the Tidy Towns Wales Natural Buzz project <http://www.keepwalestidy.org/naturalbuzz/wildweekend>, so you can see there is plenty to do in 2 hours. Around 150 of the tree whips will be planted at the canal-side woodland together with all the wild flower seeds. So hopefully if all goes well you will see things like borage, common poppy, musk mallow, goatsbeard and much more as well as willow and alder.

If you want to be part of this and can spare a couple of hours spent in our fabulous wood please come along. We will meet at the lime kilns in Llangattock (by the canal bridge on the Beaufort road) at 2pm. Bring along a rake if you have one or small spade. We will have a limited number of rakes and spades available but if you have your own to bring, that would be great.

Llangattock Community Woodlands will be having an **Annual General Meeting on 12th May** This will be our first AGM as a charity and that means we have had to get lots of things done for the first time for the Charity Commission. Copies of our annual report, annual accounts and trustees report will all be available after 12th May. If you are a member of LCW and would like to attend the AGM please do contact Eric Gower, Secretary of LCW by email eric.gower@gmail.com to let him know.

The Llais y Goedwig Gathering in March was a huge success with over 100 delegates attending over two days. The gathering really shows how the community woodland movement across Wales is growing with so many different types of woodland now being managed by different communities, large and small, rural and urban. LCW hosted several activities and was an integral part of the demonstration events too.

LCW Trustees are justly proud of the commitment and enthusiasm of all our volunteers. If you are interested in environmental management, green wood crafts or bee keeping then please do get in touch. Visit our website lcwg.btck.co.uk or email eric.gower@gmail.com for a membership form.

TY'R ASH MEADOW:

We're happy to report that the planning application will be going to Brecon Beacons National Park Authority's (BBNPA) Planning Committee on 2nd June and the new application will have the environmental licence attached. The bridge has been ordered and paid for and Glanusk Estate will kindly take delivery and store the bridge before construction.

BBNPA Warden, Sam Ridge, will shortly be accessing Ty'r Ash Meadow to make improvements to the public footpath alongside the river. Biker activity has returned on the site and Sam has suggested that he can level the humps that have been built in the shallow dips whilst he's there.

COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT - LLANGATTOCK LITTER PICKERS:

Llangattock Litter Pickers on Monday 27th April were awarded the Cleaner Community Award at Keep Wales Tidy's annual Tidy Wales Awards.

We are delighted that Llangattock Litter Pickers have been recognised which is recognition of how far we have come as a group since our inception back in 2009 and reducing litter and fly tipping in and around the community of Llangattock. With the flower troughs and soon to be sown wild flower verges on Beaufort Road adding to the enhancement in the community by Llangattock Litter Pickers.

The additional fourteen flower troughs being placed into the community this year have begun to be placed into the community with the remaining ones to be placed in the coming days with all troughs having summer annuals planted up in the coming days as well. We hope that both community members and visitors to the community enjoy the display that they will no doubt give in the coming months.

Please do email us if you can help out with watering, dead heading flowers and mowing/strimming around the troughs as we are in need of additional volunteers to maintain the flower troughs and the verges they are placed on.

Just a reminder that it is our monthly community litter pick this **Saturday 2nd May** meeting at **9.30am** on **Park Drive (Llangattock)**. All welcome with equipment provided and dry weather forecast for the morning.

We will be out litter picking during the month of **May** on the following weekdays meeting at **Park Drive (Llangattock)** on each of the dates below at **9.15am**:

- **Tuesday 5th May**
- **Friday 15th May**
- **Monday 18th May**
- **Tuesday 26th May**

If you intend to come along with us for a litter pick just send us an email (batesovic@yahoo.co.uk) so that we can plan the routes to litter pick and put out enough road safety signs prior to the litter picking.

April litter picking results were 17 bags, 1 tyre, 56.6 miles of verge picked, 80 kg of litter collected (82.25% recycled) and 25.5 volunteer hours used to achieve the results.

Q&A – A NEW ADDITION TO THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER:

Continuing on from last month, here is some more information about Llangattock Green Valleys. If you have any specific questions or queries, please do send them to us!

What sort of organisation is the Community Hall Committee?

The Community Hall Committee is a Trust which is registered with the Charity Commission and is a separate legal entity to Llangattock Community Council, although there is some cross membership of the two organisations. In such a situation, councillors will be governed by the codes of conduct for public life when operating for the council and the Charity Commission codes when operating on behalf of the charity.

Has LGV received any requests for information about the Community Hall projects they've supported?

In the last year, Llangattock Green Valleys has received three requests for information from the Community Council about Community Hall projects and the Community Hall Trust. LGV is unable to provide such information to a third party as to do so would be in breach of normal confidentiality with the entities that have been supported. An alternative approach would be for the Council to ask the Hall Trustees for such information and should the Hall Trustees ask Llangattock Green Valleys to support them in responding, LGV's directors will do their best to help.

What sort of information has been requested?

The information requested seems to be based on guidance on large scale procurement and public sector grant giving. As neither the Trust nor LGV CIC operates in the public sector, the paperwork expected is wholly inappropriate for the activity concerned as public sector procurement regulations are not relevant and it is inappropriate for the scale of the activity.

How has LGV responded to these requests?

LGV has tried to keep the council informed of its activities at all times, both through directors who used to be councillors (and had obtained dispensation to speak but not vote on these issues from the relevant oversight committee of Powys County Council) and the LGV monthly newsletter. It is possible that the busy council has not felt fully informed or understood the impact of LGV's activities on the community. Attempts have been made to address this but LGV has found some of the minutes of formal council meetings to be factually inaccurate, and without a mechanism to correct such minutes it has decided it can no longer continue to communicate in this way, with incorrect information (e.g. that LGV is a charity) finding its way into the public record.

What's the alternative?

LGV offers the opportunity for the council (or individual councillors) to meet informally, to discuss its activities and plans. These meetings can either be minuted by an independent person and all sides will have the opportunity to correct the record or the meeting will be un-minuted and be for information exchange and education only. It is understood that at an informal meeting, council members would be operating as individuals and would not be able to make decisions, act collectively or in any way give commitments.

Has LGV ever worked in partnership with Llangattock Community Council?

Llangattock Green Valleys has never had any joint projects with the council and the CIC structure precludes council nominees being on the board. No councillors have attended any board meetings as observers since the resignation of Jackie Charlton as a councillor. It has thus been a surprise to see Llangattock Green Valleys' affairs discussed under 'reports from members of outside bodies' in minutes of council meetings. It would be surprising to see notes of other independent bodies without council nominees on their leadership reported in this way.

MEMBERSHIP:

To find out more about joining please visit [Llangattock Green Valleys](http://llangattockgreenvalleys.org).

**For more information on all our activities
visit www.llangattockgreenvalleys.org**

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who might be interested.**

If you'd like to see your photographs in the next newsletter send them
to: admin@llangattockgreenvalleys.org